

White = Fish Point, Mich.
(Lake Superior)

July 18. 1875.

Dear Prof. Gray,

Can you inform me
whether the "Sweet-scented"
Grass (used by the Indians
of Lake Superior in weaving
ornamental baskets) has
ever been described, and if
so, what is the name? Of
course, I do not refer to
the Hieracloa borealis, R. & S.,
which I well know. The odor
of the grass is far beyond any
other that I know of; but I
have never been able to find
it growing, nor, until lately
have I seen it in any other
shape than as offered for
sale in the form of baskets,
on L. Superior. Several ^{persons} have

I find here Poa maritima abundant

enquired of me in regard to it,
being ignorant of its name.

After much trouble I have
at last been able to procure,
through an Indian, some growing
plants, which I shall endeavor
to cultivate when I return to
Detroit. They have no flower.
The Indians and others insist
this plant never blossoms. I
find it is cultivated by the
Indians of Garden River,
Ontario (on the Sault St. Ma-
rie River) for the purpose of
basket-making, quite a catchy
introduced industry. Under cult-
-ivation it reaches a greater
height, & is a beautiful object.
They plant the runners, which they
manure with fish entrails, &c.,
& the plant thrives and grows
rank, and drives out other growths.
I have also procured some of

the dried cultivated plant, two specimens of which I
enclose. You will perceive that the leaf becomes
resolute in drying. The odor is developed by
moisture - & the baskets, never lose this. -

An intelligent Indian informs me that any part
of the culm with a knot ^(or joint) will root on planting.
They all insist it never flowers. -

Excuse the haste in which I write. Please direct
to me to 80 Elizabeth Street West, Detroit,

Michigan to hear from you soon. I remain

Prof. Wm. Gray's (his name) very sincerely
Yours Wm. G. Silliman.